

# Cross Creeks

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

photo: USFWS



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### Refuge Facts

- Established: 1963.
- Acres: 8,862 (fee title).
- Located in Stewart County, TN.
- Location: the refuge is located 2 miles east of Dover, Tennessee. Travel west on Highway 79 from Clarksville to Dover; turn left on Highway 49, go 2.5 miles then left on Wildlife Road for 1 mile.

### Natural History

- Refuge occupies 12.5 river miles of the middle transition portion of the Cumberland River (Lake Barkley Reservoir) between Cheatham Dam (TN) and Barkley Dam (KY).
- Refuge established as mitigation for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Barkley Project.
- Concentrations of geese, ducks, raptors, shorebirds, wading birds, and neo-tropical migratory birds.
- Nesting bald eagles.
- Open water ..... 3,000 acres.
- Wetlands ..... 2,000 acres.
- Woodlands ..... 2,000 acres.
- Croplands ..... 1400 acres.
- Grasslands ..... 400 acres.
- 240 species of birds.
- 250 species of mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians.
- 650 species of plants.

### Financial Impact of Refuge

- Six-person staff.
- 80,000 visitors annually—38 states, six foreign countries (1997).
- FY 98 budget: \$387,600.
- Residents and non-residents generate \$1.8 million in expenditures annually.

- Refuge located in close proximity to the National Recreational Area—TVA Land Between the Lakes, Fort Donelson National Military Park (NPS), Fort Campbell Military Reservation (DOD), Stewart State Forest, and Barkley Wildlife Management Area.

### Refuge Objectives

- Provide habitat for migratory birds, especially waterfowl.
- Provide habitat and protection for endangered and threatened species—bald eagles, gray bats, Indiana bats, least terns, and peregrine falcons.
- Provide wildlife-oriented recreation for the public.
- Provide environmental education for students, faculty and private sector.

### Management Tools

- Water management for waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, 16 fisheries impoundments, and two reservoirs.
- Collar observations—Canada geese (Southern James Bay population).
- Cooperative farming.
- Force account farming.
- Mechanical/chemical control of noxious plants.
- Banding wood ducks.
- Deer management—public hunting program.
- Fisheries management—sportfishing and research.
- Education/interpretation.
- Law enforcement.
- Research.
- Partnerships.

# Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge

## Public Use Opportunities

- Visitor center.
- Hiking trail.
- Auto tour route.
- Launching ramps—15 (improved and unimproved).
- Kiosk.
- Sport fishing—seasonal.
- Hunting—white-tailed deer, squirrels.
- Photography.
- Environmental Education Camp.
- Watchable wildlife viewing area.

*Do you allow hunting?*

Yes, archery, for deer and squirrel.

*What recreational activities do you allow?*

Sportfishing, hunting, photography, hiking, wildlife observation, and environmental education.

## Calendar of Events

**March-October:** sportfishing.

**March:** Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

**April:** Earth Day, National Wildlife Week.

**May:** International Migratory Bird Day.

**June:** Environmental Education Camp.

**August-October:** squirrel hunting.

**September:** River Days Celebration.

**September-October:** archery deer hunting.

**October:** National Wildlife Refuge Week.

**November-March:** waterfowl observation.

**December:** Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

## Questions and Answers

*How many waterfowl winter at Cross Creeks?*

25,000 Canada geese (average 1990-1997) 80-100,000 ducks.

*How many eagle nests are on the refuge?*

One on the refuge and one adjacent to the refuge. One nest has been active since 1982.

*Are your impoundments and reservoirs open for fishing?*

Yes, March 15-October 31.